

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4542

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5641

TO DIRECTOR KEOGH FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AMGT

SUBJ: THE PRINTING OF PREGLED

1. I BELIEVE THAT PREGLED IS A VALUABLE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF PEOPLE IN YUGOSLAVIA WHO ARE OF INTEREST TO THIS EMBASSY. UNFORTUNATELY, DELAYS IN PRODUCTION AND SHIPPING OF PREGLED IN BEIRUT HAVE ALL BUT NEGATED THE USEFULNESS OF THE MAGAZINE. A RECENT ISSUE TOOK 26 WEEKS TO REACH BELGRADE. AN ISSUE CONTAINING A REPORT ON THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF PREMIER BIJEDIC TO WASHINGTON APPEARED HERE FULLY SIX MONTHS AFTER THE VISIT. BY THAT TIME PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO BELGRADE HAD BEEN COMPLETED.

2. I AM CERTAIN THAT YOUR PRINTING OFFICE IN BEIRUT HAS MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE FIGHTING THERE, BUT I AM ALSO CERTAIN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND MY CONCERN THAT PREGLED IS FAST LOSING ITS USEFULNESS AS A POLICY INSTRUMENT IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. I KNOW THAT YOUR AGENCY IS LOOKING INTO THIS PROBLEM, AND I HAVE ASKED TERRY CATHERMAN AND HIS STAFF TO OFFER SOME ALTERNATIVES WHICH WOULD RESTORE PREGLED. THEY

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ARE: A) PRINT THE CORE MAGAZINE IN BEIRUT AND PRINT A

TIMELY CENTER SECTION IN BELGRADE -- THE TWO COULD BE STAPLED TOGETHER HERE AND DISTRIBUTED; B) RE-EQUIP BELGRADE'S PRINTING SHOP AND PRODUCE THE ENTIRE MAGAZINE HERE; C) TYPESET AND PRINT THE ENTIRE MAGAZINE IN THE REGIONAL PROJECTS OFFICE IN VIENNA.

4. THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE A TIMELY CENTER SECTION ON BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PREGLED. HOWEVER, IT WOULD STILL LEAVE THE BASIC MAGAZINE SUBJECT TO THE PRESENT DELAYS AND WOULD PROVIDE ONLY MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT.

5. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS ATTRACTIVE, BUT EXPENSIVE. THE PRINTING SHOP WHICH EXISTED HERE PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN DISMANTLED AND COULD BE RESTORED ONLY WITH NEW EQUIPMENT AND ADDITIONAL YUGOSLAV AND AMERICAN STAFF.

6. THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE IS, I BELIEVE, THE BEST COMPROMISE. TEXTS AND LAYOUTS COULD BE MAILED TO VIENNA IN TWO TO THREE DAYS. THE FINAL PRODUCT COULD BE SHIPPED BACK TO BELGRADE IN LESS THAN A WEEK BY TRUCK. PREGLED COULD AGAIN SUPPORT THIS EMBASSY'S ACTIVITIES IN YUGOSLAVIA. SOME OF THE WORK PRESENTLY DONE IN VIENNA, WHICH IS, I THINK, LOWER ON YOUR AGENCY'S PRIORITY LIST THAN IS PREGLED, WOULD HAVE TO BE SHIFTED ELSEWHERE.

7. A BROAD SPECTRUM OF YUGOSLAVIA'S POPULATION WILL, AT SOME FUTURE DATE, HAVE A DECISIVE IMPACT ON THE DESTINY OF CENTRAL EUROPE. I WANT TO SEE USIA AND PREGLED PLAY THEIR PROPER ROLE IN INFLUENCING THE CHOICES TO COME IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. I HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON ON OUR PROPOSAL.
SILBERMAN

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